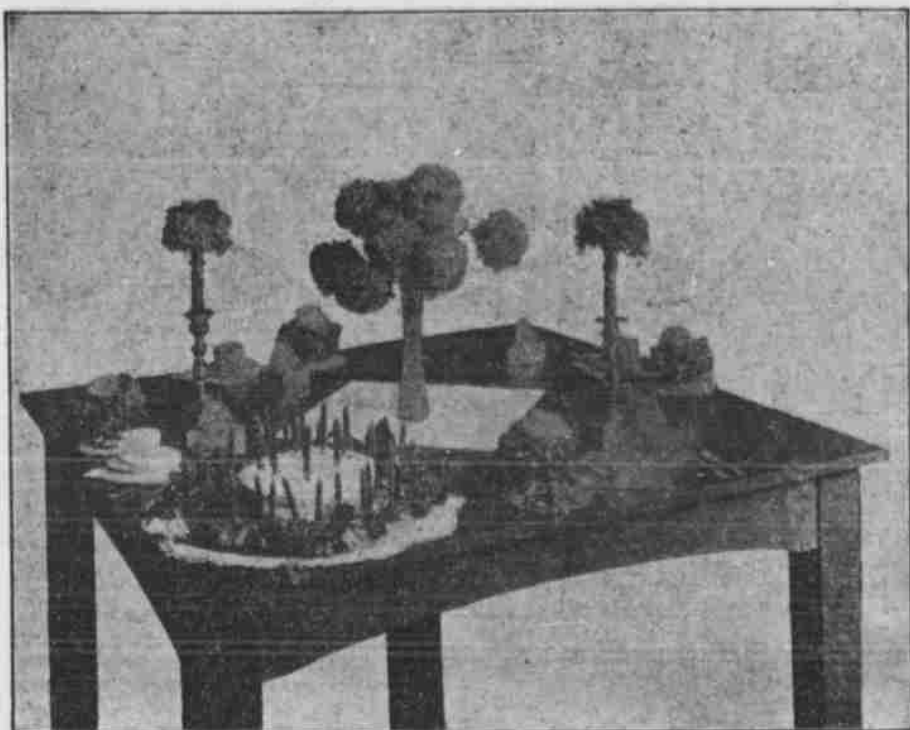


For the Thanksgiving Dinner



ATTRACTIVE SCHEME FOR DECORATING THE CHILDREN'S THANKSGIVING TABLE.

WHEN visions of Thanksgiving dawn on the mental horizon of the housewife who is planning a family reunion or for extra guests the first thought that enters her mind is the dinner menu. So absorbing is this problem, especially to a careful Martha, that in the hurry and bustle of culinary preparation she is apt to forget that there are other things besides a fine dinner which will greatly add to the success of the Thanksgiving festivities.

As the season comes when flowers and foliage have so lately perished the outer world seems very barren, and, therefore, it becomes necessary to infuse as much good cheer as possible indoors, to give an added feeling of warmth and welcome to the guests.

The chief consideration in this direction will, of course, be the table, which should not only groan with its burden of good things to eat, but should be made attractive with seasonable decorations.

As the Pilgrim Fathers are inseparably associated with the great American holiday it is an entirely appropriate and a novel treatment as well to decorate the table in their honor.

The central figure of this decorative scheme should be a miniature Mayflower, which can be shaped at home after several different models. The little vessel should be full-rigged and its hold filled with a goodly cargo of fruits and nuts.

A large green squash, selected with care in view of the fact that it is to be halved, will, when scooped out, serve as the hull of the vessel. The sails can be fashioned from white paper, cut with a nicety and sewed to mast and boom, the latter being ordinary smooth sticks. On one of the sails inscribe "The Mayflower of 1620," so there will be no mistake about its identity.

Let the goodly ship sail on a big mirror representing the sea, and have it headed for the end of the table on which reposes Plymouth Rock, surrounded by the "rock-bound coast"—a collection of many shells and stones, gathered in travels or for the occasion.

Contrary to the original state of things the housewife can argue that the vegetation in the locality associated with the Mayflower has changed within the past few hundred years, so she can hide the ocean's boundaries with delicate ferns and dainty blossoms, which will reflect in the mirror quite realistically.

The souvenirs can consist of a bonbon box at each place in the shape of a small ship, on the sails of which are the

figures 1620-1920. They can also be fashioned, at a trifling expense, out of pasteboard, tissue paper, toothpicks and some water-color paints. On the top of each mast put a tiny flag, about an inch in diameter, cut out of red, white and blue tissue paper, using a pin for the staff. The entire cost of the table decorations, including the flowers, should not exceed \$2. A caterer would probably charge \$25.

If the good wife fears to undertake the building of a Mayflower owing to a lack of nautical education, she can still have her Mayflower, and in place of the home-made sails she can substitute some from a child's sailboat. As to the bonbon favors, small boxes may be purchased ready made, and tiny boats may be pasted on, the flag being added as before.

At the beginning of the feast there is usually a trying moment of suspense to every hostess. Such an embarrassment at the Thanksgiving dinner can be averted by a resort to a novel idea in the shape of souvenirs. It will be a charming prelude which will insure a safe crossing of the Rubicon.

These souvenirs, which will delight the children as well as the grown-ups, should consist of a unique assortment of animal, insect, fruit and flower caricatures, which may be fashioned into ingenious forms from small fruits, vegetables and nuts. The first glimpse of the objects will set in loquacious play the fountain of mirth and words.

To accomplish this result a very slight expenditure of money is necessary, for the requisites are in nearly every household. These consist of oranges, lemons, dried fruits—like raisins, English currants and prunes—radishes, lettuce, celery, parsley leaves, fishbones and toothpicks.

A shelled almond will be the foundation for that cheery hearthside musician, the cricket. To make, take a sharp penknife and cut off lengthwise and crosswise narrow strips of the skin to indicate wings and breast. Six toothpicks should be bent into correct angles and be pushed into the side of the almond body for legs. A black currant should be pinned on for the head, with black-headed pins, which will serve as eyes. If horse hairs are available, two of these will represent the little creature's antennae; otherwise, use two fine straws from a broom.

For a harmless mouse take a light colored radish with a long, slim tail. Pin to this a raisin for the head. Push two raisin seeds into the head for eyes, and pin above them two little ears cut from almond skin. Four blunt toothpicks will make excellent legs.



A "PILGRIM FATHERS" CENTERPIECE FOR THE THANKSGIVING TABLE.

A realistic turtle may be made out of a prune, with head, tail and feet of cloves, pushed in at the proper points.

A spider may be made of a large French prune, using a large raisin for the head. At one-third the distance of the length of the prune tie a yellow string to indicate the segments of the body. On the under side tie eight fishbones, four on each side, in imitation of the walking members. From the raisin head two horn-like appendages should protrude. These may be of the pointed ends of toothpicks.

A lemon makes a comical miniature pig, providing it has a prominent base for a snout. Slash the mouth, push in a couple of cloves for eyes, pin on ears cut from onion skin, twist another piece of onion skin for a tail; then insert the toothpicks for legs, and you will have a pig.

There is no end to the possibilities that lie dormant in a potato, for instance, and a little practice will enable the experimenter to make all sorts of amusing souvenirs, which may be fastened on a name card, with an appropriate quotation, or merely placed beside a plate on a paper dolly.

To make flowers out of vegetables, such prosaic articles as beets, rutabagas, white turnips and carrots will be needed, all of which should be of medium size and perfectly clean. If the housewife will experiment, she will be surprised at the results.

For example, very natural calla lilies can be made from the white turnip, using a small portion of a carrot for the center. Beautiful roses may be made from beets, and delicate tea roses may be closely imitated by using rutabagas.

The fruit which is to serve as the final dessert course may ornament the sideboard until the proper time for passing it arrives. A simple arrangement is to pile the fruit in pyramid shape on a large tray, grapes of purple, green and pink, great golden oranges, yellow pears, red, green and yellow bananas. Here and there tuck ferns among the fruit and all about the edge of the tray as well.

As to the house itself, the fields and woods are full of beautiful things which lend themselves to decorating, and the wise woman will provide herself with branches of bitter-sweet, the red and orange of which is not to be despised. She will also employ autumn leaves, gathered in the autumn. Neither will she forget the trailing blackberry vines, the evergreen fern, or the great ears of corn which should hang from mantel and chandeliers or hanging lamps.

With these simple decorations carried out, the memory of them will remain to those who shared in the pleasure long after the recollection of the menu has passed away. LOUISE E. DEW.

A Labor Question

"What are you feeding to those hogs, my friend?" the professor asked.

"Corn, professor," the grizzled old farmer, who knew the learned gentleman by sight, replied.

"Are you feeding it wet or dry?"

"Dry."

"Don't you know if you feed it wet the hogs can digest it in one-half the time?"

The farmer gave him a quizzical look.

"Now, look here, professor," he said, "how much do you calculate a hog's time is worth?"—Lippincott's Magazine.

The Mystery Deepens

A Nebraska young man was on his way to be married. He had progressed as far as the aisle of the church and the organist had struck up the jubilant wedding music. Then he was observed to turn pale, to totter, and finally to lean toward the bride and huskily remark: "I have changed my mind," and finally to rush from the church.

His friends contended that he was seized with an attack of nervousness, but the outside public will want to know what it was that the organist played just before the attack came on.

And the mystery deepens when we learn that it was not "Hawatha."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Testing a Tenderfoot

District Attorney Haymaker of Pittsburg had a scare the other evening that he will remember for some time. He had been calling on friends and on his way home walked down a railroad track for some distance. Hearing a train approaching he remembered that in days gone by he and his boy companions used to try to walk down a track and let a train pass them without turning around. By way of testing his nerve he kept on walking until the strain became terrible. Perspiration poured down his face and at length he could no longer resist looking back. It was well that he did so, for the train was on the same track with him, something that had never occurred to him as possible. Mr. Haymaker just had time to jump down an embankment when the train dashed by. It is the last experiment of the kind he will ever undertake.



GENERAL MISSIONARY COMMITTEE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN SESSION AT THE FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, OMAHA.—Photo by a Staff Artist.